Centennial

EDITION

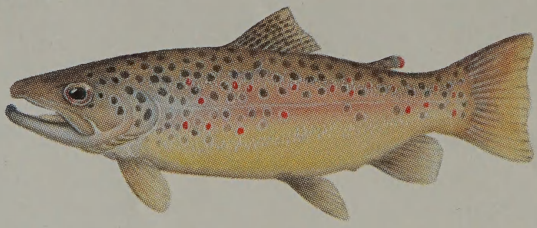
1988-89
1989-90*

MONTANA

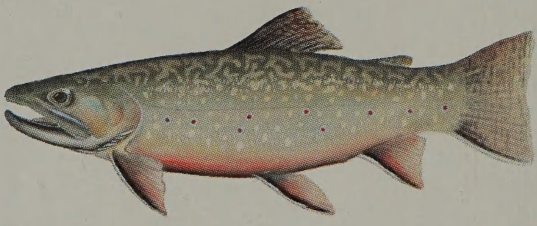
fishing regulations

Fish Identification

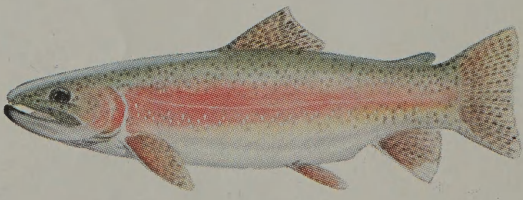
Brown Trout



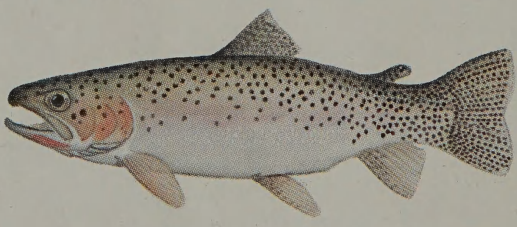
Brook Trout



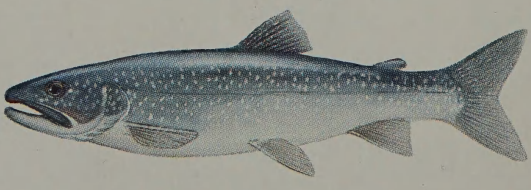
Rainbow Trout



West Slope Cutthroat



Lake Trout



These illustrations were painted by Glenn West for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the seasons, limits and regulations listed herein shall govern the 1988-89 fishing season. These regulations are valid March 1, 1988, through February 28, 1989. These regulations were adopted by the Fish and Game Commission on November 18, 1987.

*These regulations as adopted herein are also proposed to remain in effect for the 1989-90 fishing season. They will be formally adopted, with possible changes, by the Fish and Game Commission in the winter of 1989. Any changes will be made available to the public on an addendum sheet available from all license agents and at all Fish, Wildlife and Parks' offices. Portions of the regulations in this booklet may be changed, or additions may be made, for the 1989-90 fishing season. **In order to have complete set of the current regulations and in order to remain in compliance with the law, sportsmen must obtain the fishing regulations addendum sheet.**

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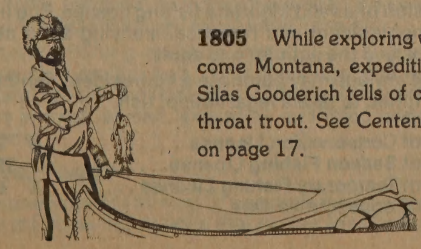
How To Use This Summary

The key to successful, legal fishing is found in the alphabetical listing of fishing waters for each of the three fishing districts. Every exception to the standard regulations is found in these lists.

To determine what regulations apply to a specific water, follow these steps:

- Read the Standard Statewide Fishing Regulations. This section defines many regulations and summarizes general information and restrictions that apply statewide.
- Use the maps to determine what Fishing District the water is in.
- Follow the District Instructions. These regulations include season information and daily bag and possession limits.
- Check the alphabetical listing of waters for that district.
  a. If the water appears in the listing and there are more liberal or restrictive regulations listed, those regulations and all other Standard/District Regulations will apply.
  b. If the water does not appear in the listing, then the Standard/District Regulations will apply.



1805 While exploring what will become Montana, expedition member Silas Gooderich tells of catching cutthroat trout. See Centennial History on page 17.

Remember

ASK FIRST!!

to Hunt and Fish on Private Land

License Requirements

A fishing license is a permit for the lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations. This includes commercial whitefishing in which case the license must be validated by an authorized Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department employee. There is no charge for this validation.

A Conservation License is required of both residents and nonresidents before a fishing license may be purchased.

Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable.

Residents

In order to apply for a Montana resident fishing (or hunting) license, one must be a legal resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application.

Each resident 15 years and older must have a resident fishing license in order to fish. Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 and older must have a conservation license to fish. Residents under the age of 12 need no license to fish but must observe limits and all other fishing regulations.

Free fishing permits are available from heads of respective institutions for patients at veteran's administration hospitals and for residents of state institutions other than the state penitentiary.

- **Resident Conservation License .....$ 2.00**
  Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish, and to hunt upland game birds, other than turkeys.
- **Resident Disabled Persons Conservation License .$ 2.00**
  Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, may apply for an annual "Disabled Persons Conservation License" which authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds.
- **Resident Fishing License .....$ 9.00**
- **Resident Sportsman's License .....$ 45.00**
  Includes a conservation, deer "A", elk, and black bear license and authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds.
- **Resident Paddlefish Tags .....Two for $ 3.00**
  Needed for Yellowstone River. Limit of two.
  Required of all paddlefish anglers, regardless of age.

Nonresidents

All nonresidents 15 years and older must have a fishing license to fish. No nonresident under the age of 15 years may fish in Montana without having obtained a fishing license unless the nonresident under the age of 15 years is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult.

A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

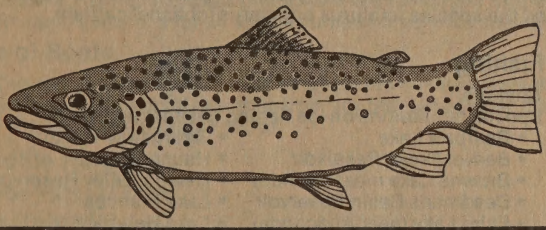
- **Nonresident Conservation License.....$ 2.00**
- **Nonresident Season Fishing License.....$ 35.00**
- **Nonresident Temporary Fishing License .....$ 8.00**
  Valid for 2 consecutive days.

- **Nonresident Paddlefish Tag** . . . . . .Two for **$ 10.00**
  Needed for Yellowstone River. Limit of two.
  Required for all nonresident paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, even when accompanied by an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license.
- **Nonresident Deer Combination License** . . . . . **.$200.00**
  Available from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Helena Headquarters only. Includes a conservation and deer "A" license and authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds.
- **Nonresident Big Game, Fish and Bird License** . . . **.$450.00**
  Available from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Helena office only. Includes a conservation, deer "A", elk, and black bear license and authorizes fishing, and hunting of upland game birds. Quota of 17,000.

Numbered Tag

If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the:

- Tag number and color
- Date fish was caught
- Species of fish
- Length and Weight (close as possible)
- Location of Catch (river - lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
- Name and address of fisherman



Standard Statewide Fishing Regulations

Artificial Lures

Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or any natural or man made food, or any man made lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

Bait (Live)

Sculpins may be used live for bait statewide, except in waters limited to artificial lures and in the Madison River between Varney Bridge and Ennis Lake. Otherwise live fish may not be used for bait except as provided under district regulations.

Any fish may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession. Nongame species may be taken for bait only in waters where live fish are allowed as bait, except as restricted under district regulations.

Beaver Ponds

Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

Checking Stations

Fishermen and hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from fishing and hunting areas, even if there are no fish or game to be checked.

Children's Fishing Waters

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons twelve (12) years and older.

Closed Waters

All waters operated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons except on Holter Lake.

Game Fish

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

Ice Fishing

- Shelters

  Special regulations on ice fishing shelters apply in:
  - Bearpaw Lake
  - Beaver Creek Reservoir
  - Browns Lake (near Ovando)
  - Deadmans Basin Reservoir
  - Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
  - Georgetown Lake
  - Hauser Lake
  - Helena Valley Reservoir
  - Lake Frances
  - Lake Helena

  See Ice Fishing Shelter Regulations available from any Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

- Size of Hole

  The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches. This does not apply to waters open to fishing through the ice with spear or gig.

Indian Reservations

See National Parks

Irrigation Canals and Ditches

Man made irrigation canals and ditches are open year around unless shown otherwise under district regulations.

Limits

- **Daily** — Daily limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. No person shall take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations.
- **Possession** — Possession limit shall mean the number or pounds of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime in any form-fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.

  Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.

  A person fishing on a water may possess only a limit allowed for that water.

  To determine limits, fish may have entrails removed but must have their heads and tails attached to their bodies.

Means of Taking

Only a single line with hook or hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be in immediate control.

These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines may be used as provided under district regulations. Setlines are lines that may be attended or unattended. They may include poles, tipups and floating devices.

Snagging of fish is unlawful at all times except paddlefish, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as provided under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used. Snagging is a technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to imbed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish.

A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus) for bait. Otherwise, use or possession of minnow seines, snares, or fish traps is unlawful except as provided under district regulations.

National Parks, Indian Reservations and Wildlife Refuges

Certain waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the park, reservation or refuge involved.

Seasons

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

Use of Boats

The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. See Boating Regulations available from any Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

Wildlife Refuges

See National Parks

It is Unlawful

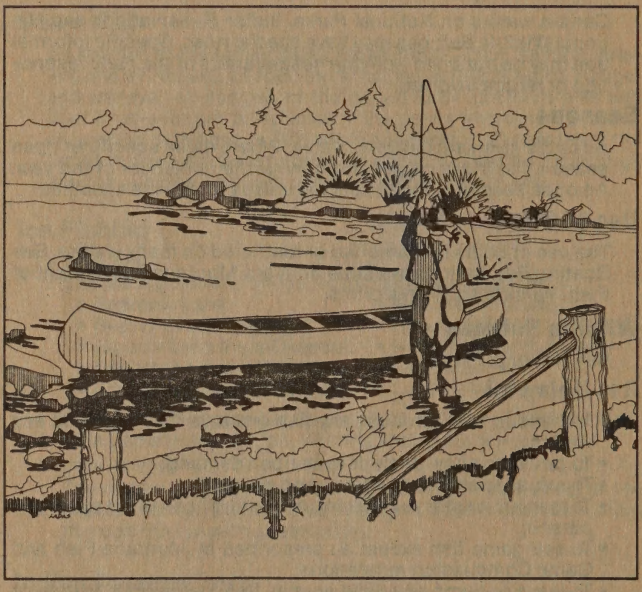
- To transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters;
- To refuse to show one's license upon demand;
- To refuse to show one's fish upon demand;
- To loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person;
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations;
- To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted;
- To use any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any streams where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish;
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide;
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food.
- To operate upon Montana waters a boat which:
  - Is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat, if motorized (gas or electric);
  - Is not carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety Law (copies available from any Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office);
  - Does not have one serviceable, Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each passenger plus one type IV PFD in boats over 16 feet. Persons under 12 years old must wear PFD's when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.

TURN IN POACHERS
CALL: 1-800-TIP-MONT

Montana Stream Access Law

Montana has a law affecting the recreational use of the state's rivers and streams. Under the law, rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. The law does not address recreational use of lakes. Although Montana law now gives sportsmen the right to pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water marks of rivers and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.

The success or failure of the law hinges on the behavior of landowners and recreationists. We emphasize the need for cooperation and mutual respect. If you are a recreationist, we encourage you to seek landowner permission before pursuing any activities on private lands. Also, please leave all fences intact, pack out your litter, if you must build a campfire, choose a safe location and tend to the fire at all times. If a dog accompanies you, keep it under your control. Restrict your activities to those that are water-related and above all, keep the rights of the landowner in mind.



Montana Trespass Law

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter or remain on private land by the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or by the failure of the landowner to post notice denying entry onto the land. The law states that notice denying entry must consist of written notice on a post, structure or natural object or of notice by painting a post, structure or natural object with at least 50 square inches of fluorescent orange paint. In the case of a metal fence post the entire post must be painted. This notice must be placed at each outer gate and all normal points of access to the property, as well as on both sides of a stream where it crosses an outer property boundary line. In cases where land ownership is on just one side of a stream, only that side needs to be posted.

It is the responsibility of the recreationist to determine whether private lands are posted. If lands are posted, it is the recreationist's responsibility to obtain permission from landowners before recreating on these lands.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Western Fishing District Includes All Waters In Montana West Of The Continental Divide.

Standard Fishing Seasons

Streams—open third Saturday in May through November 30. Some streams have extended whitefish and catch-and-release fishing for trout from December through third Saturday in May. See exceptions.

Lakes—open entire year.

All waters open to angling are open to both bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fish.

Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish in most waters open to fishing.

Snagging of salmon is allowed in waters open to fishing from September 15 through December except as noted under exceptions.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits unless listed under exceptions. However, a person may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which he is fishing.

LIMIT:

A **Species:** Brown trout, Cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout, Golden trout, Lake trout, Grayling, Bull trout*
Daily Bag Limit: Streams: 5 (only 1 over 14 inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.
Possession Limit: Streams: 5 (only 1 over 14 inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.

An angler must release or kill immediately any fish of the species covered by Limit A. It is unlawful to possess a live fish of any species in Limit A.

*In the Flathead, Swan and Kootenai Drainages only one **bull trout** may be included in either of the above limits.

Limit A (Wilderness Limits) continued on page 8.

A CONTINUED

Wilderness Limits: All streams in the South Fork Flathead River drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas unless otherwise specified under exceptions.

- Lakes — 3 fish, no size limit.
- Streams — Rainbow and cutthroat, 3 fish, none of which may exceed 12 inches.
- One bull trout of any size may make up one of the 3 fish in either the lake or stream limit.

B
Species: Brook trout
Daily Bag Limit: 10 pounds not to exceed 20 fish
Possession Limit: 20 fish

C
Species: Bass
Daily Bag Limit: 5
Possession Limit: 5

D
Species: Northern Pike
Daily Bag Limit: 15
Possession Limit: 15

E
Species: Salmon
Daily Bag Limit: 20
Possession Limit: 40

F
Species: Whitefish
Daily Bag Limit: 100 including fish taken for sale
Possession Limit: 100 including fish taken for sale

G
Species: Burbot (ling)
Daily Bag Limit: 5
Possession Limit: 5

It is unlawful to take or possess any sturgeon of the genus **Acipenser** (White Sturgeon).

Nets (Use Of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

The use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

Commercial Bait Fish Seining

Sculpins may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206 from all waters with a four (4) foot screen or net as provided in the general fishing regulations. Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.

Not valid on Indian Reservation waters; for information contact local tribal officials.

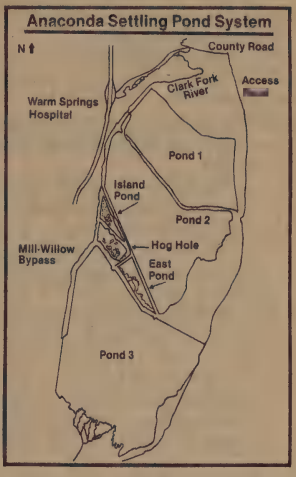
1955 The Montana Legislature passes the Water Pollution Control Law, requiring the quality of the state's waters to be protected for present and future beneficial uses.

See Centennial History on page 17.

Exceptions to: Western Fishing District

Abbot Lake near Bigfork
- Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.
- Limit C: 5 bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 1 through June 15 catch-and-release only for bass.

Anaconda Settling Pond System
- Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.
- Hog Hole open May 25 through June 30.
- Pond 3 open May 25 through September 30 to fishing from floating non-motorized craft and from north and west dikes except where posted closed.
- All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30.



Ashley Creek downstream from Smith Lake
Open entire year.

Ashley Creek from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to its source
Closed entire year.

Ashley Lake
Limit E: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.

Ashley Lake Inlet Tributaries
Closed entire year.

Basin Creek from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to source, including all reservoirs and tributaries
Closed entire year.

Big Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and all tributaries
Closed entire year.

Bitterroot River
Downstream from confluence of East and West Forks
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- Open to catching of whitefish for commercial sale.

From Stevensville Bridge to Florence Bridge and one mile downstream from Darby Bridge to Como Bridge.
Limit A: 5 trout per day under 12 inches or 4 trout under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches. Artificial lures only.

Bitterroot Valley between U.S. 93 and the East Side Highway between Hamilton and Florence (ditches, canals and sloughs)
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Blackfoot River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- Open for catching of whitefish for commercial sale.

Blanchard Lake near Whitefish
Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice and by persons submerged in the water. Open to three attended lines through the ice only.

Bootjack Lake (near Whitefish, T31N, R23W, S26)
Open April 1 through November 30. Limit A: 1 trout daily and in possession, minimum size limit 22 inches, artificial lures only.

Brenneman Slough
Closed entire year to taking of salmon.

Cabinet Gorge Reservoir
Open to fishing with up to three (3) attended or unattended lines from January 1 through September 30. Setlines must be clearly identified with name and address of owner.

Carpenter Lake (Tetrault Lake)
Limit C: 20 bass daily and in possession.

Cedar Creek Impoundment (Columbia Falls water supply)
Closed entire year.

Church Slough (Flathead River)
- Open year around.
- Limit C: 5 bass daily and in possession, only one may exceed 12 inches.

Clark Fork River
- Open to catching of whitefish for commercial sale.
- Anaconda Company Settling Pond spillway to Perkins Lane Bridge
  Limit A: 5 trout under 12 inches or 4 trout under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches, artificial lures only.
- Milltown Dam to mouth of Thompson River
  Limit A: 5 trout only one of which may exceed 16 inches.
- Anaconda Company Settling Pond spillway to (near Warm Springs) to mouth of Thompson River
  Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- Mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River.
  Open entire year for norhtern pike with bait or lures.
- Mouth of Thompson River to Idaho border.
  Open entire year. Lake limits apply to entire reach.

Clearwater Drainage
- Downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier.
  Limit E: 10 salmon daily and 20 in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December when 35 daily and 70 in possession shall be allowed.

Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier
Open entire year.

Coal Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Daly Creek (near Hamilton)
Closed entire year.

Donaldson Creek Drainage, tributary of Lake Mary Ronan
Closed entire year.

Echo Lake near Anaconda
Open third Saturday in May through March 31. Limits A and B: 5 trout (including brook trout).

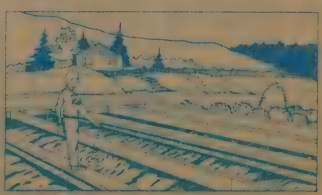
Echo Lake near Bigfork
Limit C: 5 bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 1 through June 15 - catch-and-release only for bass.
Open to spearing and gigging of nongame fish and northern pike through the ice and by persons submerged in the water.

Elk Creek, tributary to Swan River
Closed entire year.

Fennon Slough (Flathead River)
- Open year around.
- Limit C: 5 bass daily and in possession, only one may exceed 12 inches.

Fisher River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures.

1949 Bluewater trout hatchery is completed.
See Centennial History on page 17.



Flathead Lake
- Closed entire year to snagging of salmon.
- Open May 1 through November 30 for salmon. Limit E: 10 salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- Open third Saturday in May through March 31 for catching of whitefish for commercial sale.
- Limit A: 5 trout daily and in possession; only 1 lake trout can be larger than 28 inches and only 1 bull trout can be included in the catch.
- Hatchery Bay of Flathead Lake at Somers
  Closed as posted from October 1 until spawn taking is complete.

Flathead River
- From confluence of North and Middle Forks to Sportsman's Bridge (State Highway 82)
  Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 through April 30 with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
  Open to catching of whitefish for commercial sale.
- Above Kerr Dam
  No more than 1 bull trout may be included in the daily catch.
  Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Flathead Reservation boundary to mouth
  Open entire year.
  Limit D: 5 pike daily and in possession, minimum length 24 inches.

Flathead Indian Reservation
- Tribal fishing Permit is necessary on Reservation waters.
- Check at Tribal Headquarters for specific information.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding natural lakes.
Closed entire year.

Fred Burr Lake (Phillipsburg Water supply, Granite County)
Closed entire year.

Freeland Creek Drainage, tributary to Lake Mary Ronan
Closed entire year.

Georgetown Lake and Tributaries
Lake open third Saturday in May through March 31. Tributaries open third Saturday in May through November 30. Limits A and B: 5 (including brook trout). Limit E: No daily or possession limit.

Goat Creek (Swan River tributary)
Closed entire year.

Granite Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Haskill Creek and tributaries from Whitefish public water intake to its source
Closed entire year.

Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake
Closed entire year.

Horseshoe Lake near Ferndale
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Hungry Horse Reservoir
Limit A: 5 trout daily and in possession. Only 1 bull trout may be included in the catch.

Hungry Horse Reservoir Tributaries
Wilderness limits apply — see Limit A.

Kilbrennan Lake
Open third Saturday in May through September 30.

Kootenai River (also see Libby Dam)
Open entire year.
- From Libby Dam to Idaho Border
  Open third Saturday in May through March 31 for catching of whitefish for commercial sale.

Lake Alva
Limit E: 10 salmon daily and in possession.

Lake Blaine near Kalispell
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Lake Inez
Limit E: 10 salmon daily and in possession.

Lake Mary Ronan
Open third Saturday in May through March 15. Salmon snagging allowed October 15 through November 30. Limit E: 10 salmon daily and 20 in possession, except during snagging season when 20 salmon daily and 40 in possession are allowed. Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Libby Creek
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Libby Dam
Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to David Thompson Bridge as posted.
- Structure as posted and the buoyed area immediately upstream from spillway.
  Closed entire year.

Lion Creek Tributary to Swan River
Closed entire year.

Lion Lake
Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only and by persons submerged in the water. Three (3) attended lines allowed through the ice only.

Little Bitterroot Lake
Limit E: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.

Little Blackfoot River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Lodgepole Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Long Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Loon Lake near Ferndale
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Loon Lake, Tributary to Pipe Creek, 15 miles northwest of Libby
Closed October 1 through November 30.

Lower Stillwater Lake
Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only. Open to use of three (3) attended lines through the ice only.

Lower Thompson Lake
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Medicine Lake near Phillipsburg
Open July 1 through April.

Medicine Lake Tributaries
Open July 1 through November 30.

Metcalf Lake
Open April 1 through November 30. Limit A: 1 trout daily and in possession, minimum size limit 22 inches, artificial lures only.

Middle Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams)
- No more than 1 bull trout may be included in the daily catch except in streams closed to fishing.
- Wilderness limits apply — see limit A.

Middle Fork Flathead River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures.
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.

Middle Thompson Lake
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Morrison Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Murphy Lake near Fortine
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

No Telum Lake
Open April 1 through November 30. Limit A: Only 2 trout which must exceed 14 inches in length.

North Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams)
No more than 1 bull trout may be included in the daily catch except in streams closed to fishing.

North Fork Flathead River

- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures.
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.

Noxon Rapids Reservoir

Open to fishing with up to three (3) attended or unattended lines from January 1 through September 30. Setlines must be clearly identified with complete name and address of owner.

O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth mile upstream as posted

Closed entire year.

Peterson Lake near Bigfork

- Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.
- Limit C: 5 bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 1 through June 15 — catch-and-release only for bass.

Placid Lake and tributaries

Limit E: 10 salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Rattlesnake Creek

- Upstream from mouth of Beeskove Creek
  Open entire year. Catch-and-release with artificial lures only.
- Rattlesnake Creek and tributaries from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water company to mouth of Beeskove Creek
  Closed entire year.

Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of West Fork Rock Creek (See West Fork Rock Creek)

- Artificial lures only except fishermen 14 years and younger may use bait. Limit A: 3 trout per day under 12 inches or 2 trout under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only. (See West Fork Rock Creek)

Rogers Lake spawning inlet.

Closed entire year.

Salmon Lake and tributaries

Limit E: 10 salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Seeley Lake

Limit E: 10 salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Silver Creek upstream from Saltese water supply intake

Closed entire year.

South Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams)

No more than 1 bull trout may be included in the daily catch. Wilderness limits apply — see Limit A.

South Fork Flathead River

Closed entire year to taking of salmon.

No more than 1 bull trout may be included in the daily catch.

- Upstream from Hungry Horse Dam. Wilderness limits apply — see limit A.
- Downstream from Hungry Horse Dam to "Devils Elbow" as posted.
  Closed entire year.
- From Meadow Creek bridge to Spotted Bear footbridge.
  Artificial lures only. Limit A: cutthroat trout-catch-and-release only.

Spencer Lake

Open April 1 through November 30. Limit A: 1 trout daily and in possession, minimum size limit 22 inches, artificial lures only.

Squeezer Creek (Swan River tributary)

Closed entire year.

Stillwater River from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake

Open entire year.

Swan Lake

Limit E: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.

Swan River
- No more than 1 bull trout may be included in the daily catch.
- From Condon Bridge (T21N, R17W, S36) to Bigfork Dam
  Artificial lures only.
  Limit A: Catch-and-release for rainbow and cutthroat trout.
- From Swan Lake to Bigfork Dam
  Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- From Bigfork Dam to Flathead Lake closed entire year to taking of salmon.

Tally Lake
Limit E: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.

Tetrault Lake (Carpenter Lake)
Limit C: 20 bass daily and in possession.

Thompson River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
- From mouth of West Fork Thompson River to mouth of Deerhorn Creek.
  Catch-and-release only for trout with artificial lures only.

Tobacco River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek
Closed entire year.

Upper Stillwater Lake
Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only. Open to three (3) attended lines through the ice only.

Upper Thompson Lake
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Upsata Lake
Closed entire year.

West Fork Rock Creek from the upstream boundary fence of the West Fork Youth Camp to its headwaters.
Closed entire year.

Whale Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries downstream from Whale Creek Falls
Closed entire year.

Whitefish Lake
Closed entire year to snagging of salmon. Limit E: 10 salmon daily and 20 in possession.

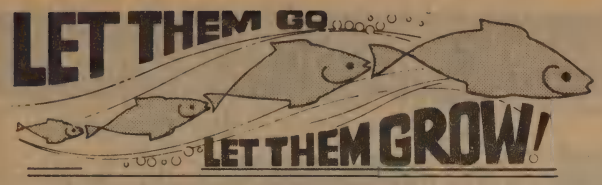
Whitefish River from Whitefish Lake to Montana State Highway 40 bridge.
Open entire year.

Wildlife Management Ponds (E ½ of S7, T5N, R9W, Deer Lodge County)
- All ponds open August 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Woods Lake
Open April 1 through November 30. Limit A: 1 trout daily and in possession, minimum size limit 22 inches, artificial lures only.

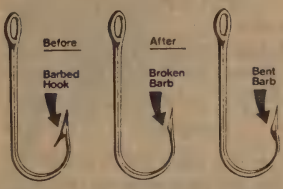
Young Creek and Young Creek Bay as posted (tributary to Lake Koocanusa)
Closed entire year.

1974 Montana Fish and Game Commission adopts a controversial policy which ends the stocking of catchable rainbow trout in nearly all of the state's streams. See Centennial History on page 17.



Use of barbless hooks is recommended in special regulation areas and for those anglers that release some or all of the fish they catch. Although use of barbless hooks does not appear to significantly increase the chance of a released fish surviving, there are benefits. Barbless hooks are easier to remove, thereby reducing the amount of stress from handling when removing a hook. Injuries to fish, which cause scarring and loss of mouth parts, are also reduced. Barbless hooks also have the added advantage of being easier to remove from an angler's skin after an errant cast.

GO BARBLESS



Because barbless hooks may not be available at tackle retailers, you can easily make your own by breaking, filing or pinching down the barbs on regular hooks.

Give barbless hooks a try. You may be surprised that you can catch just as many fish.

CUTTHROAT TROUT

Cutthroat trout are the only members of the genus **Salmo** native to most of Montana. Populations and ranges of both subspecies have been severely reduced over the years due to habitat destruction, competition with other fish species for food, interbreeding with other species, and over fishing.

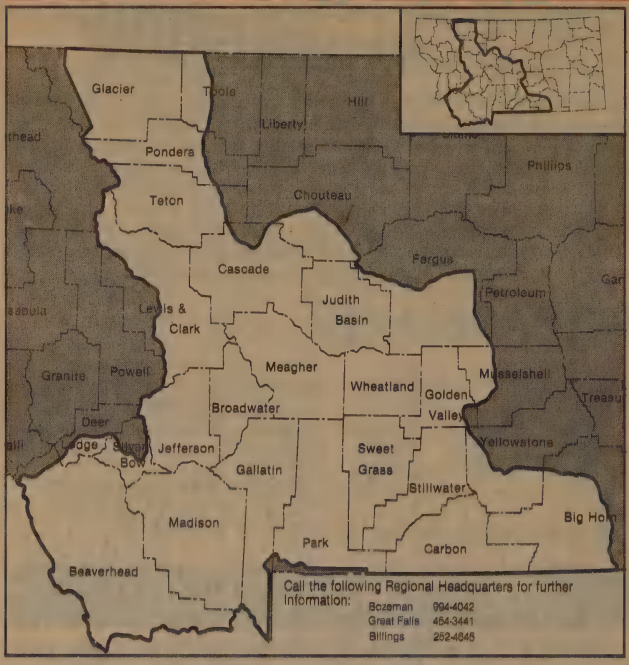
Cutthroat trout can grow to a fairly large size (1-3 lbs.) and provide excellent fishing in good habitat if they are not over harvested. Because they are relatively easy to catch, cutthroat can be over fished more easily than any other western trout. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks imposed catch-and-release regulations on cutthroat in the Yellowstone River where they are easily distinguished from other species. Westslope cutthroat however, are often difficult to distinguish from rainbow trout. Because it would not be practical to enforce a catch-and-release regulation on a species that is difficult to identify, if you fish anywhere cutthroat are found, but particularly in streams, we ask that you check the throat area of all fish you catch for the red slashes characteristic of cutthroat. Letting those fish go that exhibit these slashes should contribute to improved fishing. Enjoy the recreation these native Montanans can provide.

RELEASING FISH

To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:

- Play the fish as rapidly as possible — do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing a hook.
- Remove the hook gently — do not squeeze the fish or put fingers in its gills.
- If deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT



Central Fishing District Includes All Waters In Montana Lying East Of The Continental Divide, (Including The Belly And St. Marys Drainages) And Waters Lying West Of The Following Described Boundary.

Interstate 15 from Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, east along high water mark of the Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191, northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90, easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

Standard Fishing Seasons

Streams — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
Lakes — Open entire year.
Setlines — Anglers may use setlines in those waters open to setline fishing as specified under exceptions. Unattended setlines must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.
Snagging — All waters open to fishing are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fishing.
Spearing — All waters open to fishing are open to taking of nongame fish and burbot with rubber or spring propelled spear by persons swimming or submerged. Spears or gigs may be used through the ice only for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot, and nongame fish.

Central Fishing District
Continued on Page 21

ATTENTION ANGLER'S
1989-90 CENTENNIAL EDITION
FISHING REGULATIONS ADDENDUM

Montana has outstanding wild trout stream fisheries. Many of the regulations below have been temporarily adopted to protect those fisheries in response to the low stream flows experienced during the summer of 1988. These regulations are designed to reduce harvest of spawning-aged wild trout while still providing anglers with diverse recreational opportunities.

All regulations contained in the 1988-89/1989-90 Centennial Edition Fishing Regulations **plus** the following regulation changes are in effect March 1, 1989-February 28, 1990.

WESTERN DISTRICT

All regulations governing the Western Fishing District, as printed on pages 7-14, remain in effect. In addition to those regulations, the following exceptions are in effect March 1, 1989-February 28, 1990.

Clark Fork River Drainage—All streams in the Clark Fork River drainage upstream of the mouth of the Flathead River
Limit A: 2 fish under 14 inches.

East Fork Bitterroot River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

West Fork Bitterroot River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

In most waters within the Central Fishing District, the standard daily and possession limits for Limit A have been changed for the 1989/90 season. Anglers are restricted to the following limits for Limit A. However, the exceptions to the standard regulations as listed on pages 22-29 remain in effect as printed.

LIMIT A—REVISED STANDARD & DAILY POSSESSION LIMITS

Species: Brown trout, Cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout, Golden trout, Lake trout, Grayling.
Daily Bag Limit: Streams: 2 (only 1 over 13 inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.
Possession Limit: Streams: 2 (only 1 over 13 inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.

All exceptions governing the Central Fishing District, as printed on pages 22-29, remain in effect. In addition to those regulations, the following exceptions are in effect March 1, 1989-February 28, 1990.

Beaverhead River downstream of I-15 bridge north of Dillon
Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches).

Big Hole River from Dickey Bridge downstream to Melrose Bridge
Limit A: 2 fish under 13 inches or 1 under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches.

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONTINUED . . .

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONTINUED . . .

Big Spring Creek—Lewistown
Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches).

Bynum Reservoir (Teton County)
Open May 20, 1989, through February 28, 1990. (This exception supersedes the Bynum Reservoir (Teton County) exception listed on page 23 of the 1988-89/1989-90 Centennial Edition Fishing Regulations.)

Gallatin River upstream from Cameron Bridge
Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches).

Jefferson River
Limit A: 2 fish under 13 inches, catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. (This exception supersedes the Jefferson River Limit A exception listed on page 25 of the 1988-89/1989-90 Centennial Edition Fishing Regulations.)

Madison River from Ennis Dam to the Mouth
Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches).

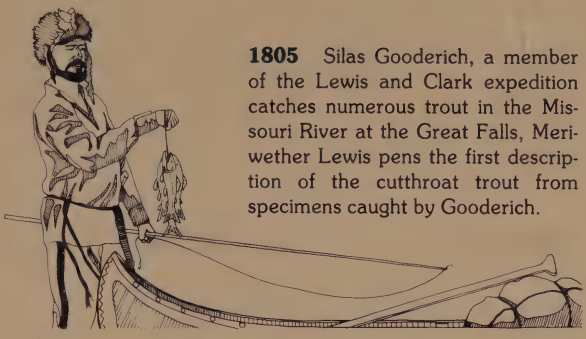
Missouri River
- Downstream from Toston Dam
  Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches)
- Upstream from Toston Dam to the Headwaters (Three Forks vicinity)
  Limit A: 2 (only 1 over 13 inches)

Ruby River
Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches).

Yellowstone River
Limit A: 5 trout (only 1 over 18 inches). Anglers are reminded to check page 29 of the 1988-89/1989-90 Centennial Edition Fishing Regulations for additional Limit A restrictions.

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the 1988-89/1989-90 Centennial Edition Fishing Regulations plus the regulation changes affecting the limits and waters listed herein shall govern the 1989-90 fishing season. These regulations are valid March 1, 1989, through February 28, 1990. The 1988-89/1989-90 Centennial Edition Fishing Regulations plus the above listed regulation changes were adopted by the Fish and Game Commission on January 25, 1989.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FISHERIES IN MONTANA



1805 Silas Gooderich, a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition catches numerous trout in the Missouri River at the Great Falls, Meriwether Lewis pens the first description of the cutthroat trout from specimens caught by Gooderich.

1865 A bill passed by the first Montana Territorial Legislature limiting the means of taking trout to, "a rod or pole, line and hook," takes effect.

1876 The use of explosives to kill fish is outlawed.

1881 Montana's first aquatic environment protection legislation prohibits dumping of sawdust and mill waste into streams.

1889 The State of Montana enters the union.

Brook trout are introduced into the Gardiner River.

Rainbow trout are introduced into the Gibbon River.

Brown trout are introduced into the Firehole River. (Rivers which drain from Yellowstone Park into Montana).

1895 The first Montana Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is established by Governor Robert A. Smith.

1896 Montana's first fish hatchery is built at Bozeman by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries.

1898 Yellow perch are introduced into Lake Sewell (now covered by Canyon Ferry Reservoir).

1901 Montana Fish and Game Department officially organized. It is directed by State Game Warden W. F. Scott. Over 1000 applications are received for eight district warden positions paying $100 per month salary.

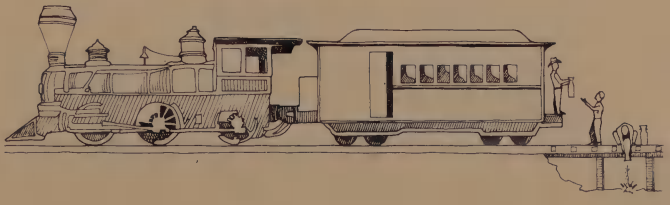
1905 The first resident hunting and fishing licenses is adopted. The license costs $1.00 per family. 30,220 are sold.

1908 The first state owned hatchery is built at Anaconda.

1909 "Fishing trains" are commonly used to drop anglers off at spots along rail routes for a day's fishing.

Limits are reduced to 25 pounds daily.

1911 The Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railroad Company donates a railroad car to the Department for fish distribution. Fish are planted directly from the train at stream crossings or by wardens and sportsmen meeting the train to transport fish to other waters.



1917 Kokanee are introduced into Flathead Lake and several other waters along with chinook salmon obtained from Oregon.

1922 Five new hatchery facilities are constructed. They are located at Lewistown, Great Falls, Big Timber, Red Lodge and Ovando.

1926 The Department's first fish distribution truck, a converted 1920 Buick, is put to use. It hauls 150 pounds of fish short distances.

1930 Golden trout from California are introduced into lakes in the Mission Mountains.

1931 Superintendent of Fisheries K. F. MacDonald proposes that each hatchery have a survey crew to study the streams in its planting area.

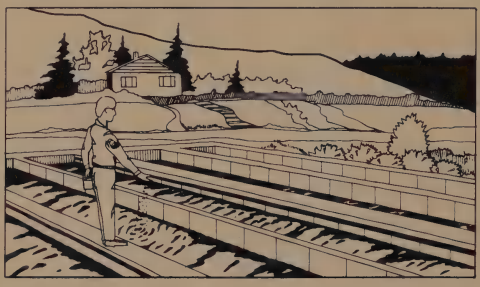
1935 An airplane is used in fish distribution for the first time in Montana.

1936 Montana State College offers the first course in fisheries management taught in Montana. Fifteen people, including several Department personnel attend.

1945 Arlee fish hatchery purchased from private operator.

1947 The Commission approves hiring the Department's first fisheries biologist. C. K. Phenicie is hired to head the new biology section of the fisheries division.

1949 Bluewater trout hatchery, near Bridger, is completed.



1951 Congressional approval of the Dingell-Johnson Act provides funds to state agencies for sport fish restoration. The money is raised through a federal tax on fishing equipment and apportioned to the states on a matching basis. Thus, anglers make a significant contribution to improving their sporting opportunities. Montana receives $61,820 during the first year of the program.

1953 The Commission adopts a new fish stocking policy based on biological and economic considerations.

1955 Most fisheries division personnel participate in the massive job of chemically rehabilitating 600 miles of the Marias River and its tributaries above the newly constructed Tiber Dam.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir fills for the first time and 700,000 rainbow trout fingerlings are planted.

The Montana Legislature passes the Water Pollution Control Law, requiring the quality of the state's waters to be protected for present and future beneficial uses.

1957 The Department hires its first pollution control biologist to work with the Department of Health on water pollution problems.

1958 A stream rating system is developed by the Department in cooperation with federal agencies to communicate the comparative worth of Montana's trout streams. The system designates 410 miles of streams as "blue ribbon fisheries."

1960 The Department acquires a helicopter which, when equipped with pontoons, greatly enhances biologists' ability to survey and stock mountain lakes.

1962 Department biologists conduct a study of 13 streams and find one-third of the length of these streams altered from their original condition. More than five times as many trout are found in unaltered reaches. The Jaycees and the Western Montana Fish and Game Association take up the cause to get legislation passed to reduce stream habitat destruction.

1963 The Legislature responds by passing the Stream Protection Act. The Act requires all agencies of state, county and city governments to apply to the Department for a permit before a stream can be altered. Montana enters a new era of fisheries management in becoming the first state to enact protection legislation.

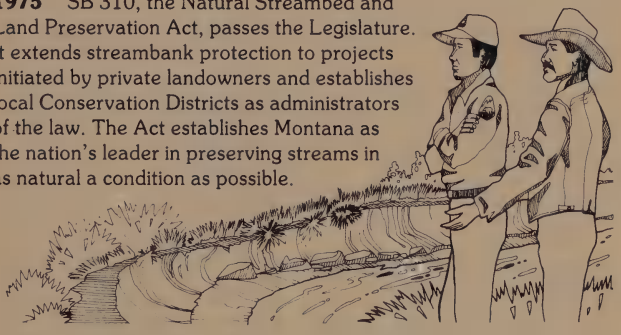
The Montana Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit is established at Montana State University.

1969 The Legislature passes SB 72, an act reserving a portion of the flow in each of 12 blue ribbon streams for instream use.

1973 The Montana Water Use Act passes the Legislature, recognizing for the first time, instream flows as a beneficial use of water. The Act also sets up a process for reserving water for instream use.

1974 Based on Department studies showing significant increases in populations of wild fish when stocking of streams is discontinued, the commission adopts a policy of wild trout management in streams. Stocking of catchable rainbow trout is halted in nearly all of the state's streams.

1975 SB 310, the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, passes the Legislature. It extends streambank protection to projects initiated by private landowners and establishes local Conservation Districts as administrators of the law. The Act establishes Montana as the nation's leader in preserving streams in as natural a condition as possible.



1977 A portion of fishing license fees is earmarked for purchase, development, and maintenance of fishing access sites.

1978 The commission establishes Montana's first special trout management area by adopting a catch and release regulation on the upper Madison River.

The Board of Natural Resources issues the Yellowstone Reservation Order, setting aside instream flow for the Yellowstone River and many of its tributaries.

1979 A citizen committee is established to oversee a study of Flathead Basin resources, the most comprehensive river basin study ever conducted in Montana. The Canadian government delays approval of a mining permit as a result of the study's findings of potential impacts.

Construction of Murray Springs Hatchery is completed. The hatchery is constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as mitigation for the construction of Libby Dam.

1980 Congress enacts the Northwest Power Planning Act, and a council is charged with developing regional electric energy and fish and wildlife mitigation plans for impacts from hydroelectric development.

1984 Legislature directs preparation of water reservation applications for Missouri River system to be completed by 1989.

The Dingell-Johnson excise tax on fishing equipment is expanded to boats, motors and marine fuel. Ten percent is earmarked for motor boat access. Much of the money initially is allocated to rebuilding the warm water hatchery at Miles City recently acquired from the federal government.

1985 Drought causes extreme low flows in Bitterroot River. Irrigators and the Department cooperate by petitioning the district court to appoint a water commissioner to insure delivery of reservoir water purchased by the Department.

Legislature clarifies Supreme Court decision regarding rights of recreational access to streams by enacting the Stream Access Law.

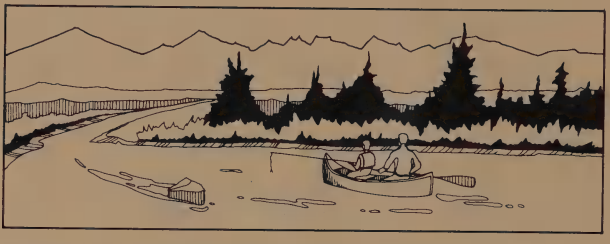
Legislature initiates water preservation process for Missouri River basin.

1986 The state's first warm water fish management plan is prepared.

Surveys estimate economic value of fishing in Montana and asks anglers their views on management of 20 of the state's trout streams.

1987 Management goals for the Bighorn River are developed after extensive public involvement in the state's first comprehensive fisheries management plan .

The Future



- Improve quality and diversity of fishing opportunity
- Preserve and enhance wild trout fisheries
- Expand warmwater fishing opportunities
- Develop incentives and programs to improve stream flows
- Promote good land use practices along stream corridors
- Develop more cooperative programs with agricultural interests
- Maintain quality hatchery system for stocking waters not capable of naturally sustaining fisheries
- Enhance public participation in program development and management decisions
- Develop long-term management plans for more water
- Balance the need for more complex fishing regulations with more voluntary regulations and education programs
- Develop action plans for species of special concern—native cutthroat, grayling, sturgeon
- Provide adequate protection and maintenance of new access sites

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits. However, a person may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which he is fishing.

LIMIT:

A

Species: Brown trout, Cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout, Golden trout, Lake trout, Grayling.
Daily Bag Limit: Streams: 5 only (1 over 18 inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.
Possession Limit: Streams: 5 only (1 over 18 inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.

An angler must release or kill immediately any fish of the species covered by Limit A. It is unlawful to possess a live fish of any species in Limit A.

Forest Limits: All waters within the National Forest Administrative boundary from U.S. Highway 2 near East Glacier to Highway 200 near Rogers Pass. Limit A:

- Lakes — 3 fish, no size limit
- Streams — Rainbow and cutthroat, 3 fish none of which may exceed 12 inches. Grayling, catch-and-release only.

B

Species: Brook trout
Daily Bag Limit: 10 pounds not to exceed 20 fish
Possession Limit: 20 fish

C

Species: Bass, Sauger, Walleye
Daily Bag Limit: 5 in any combination
Possession Limit: 5 in any combination

D

Species: Northern Pike
Daily Bag Limit: 10
Possession Limit: 10

E

Species: Salmon — angling
Daily Bag Limit: 10
Possession Limit: 10

Species: Salmon — snagging (open only where specified under exceptions)
Daily Bag Limit: 35
Possession Limit: 70

F

Species: Whitefish
Daily Bag Limit: 100 including fish taken for sale
Possession Limit: 100 including fish taken for sale

There is no number limit on catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish. The maximum weight sturgeon (Genus: **Scaphirhynchus**) which may be taken is 16 pounds.

Nets (Use Of)

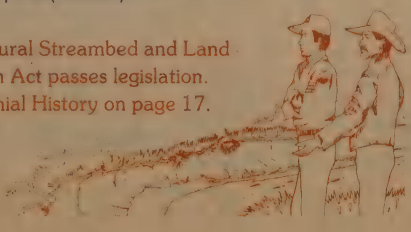
Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

In waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:

- with seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
- with minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

1975 Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act passes legislation.
See Centennial History on page 17.



Commercial Bait Fish Seining

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206 from the following waters: Marias River, Muddy Creek (near Vaughn) and Yellowstone River drainage downstream of the mouth of the Clarks Fork Yellowstone River (excluding Bighorn River drainage). Sculpins may be taken from all waters with a four (4) foot screen or net as provided in the general fishing regulations.

Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.

Not valid on Indian Reservation water; for information contact local tribal officials.

Exceptions to: Central Fishing District

Alder Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds mouth to Virginia City
Open entire year.

Armstrong Spring Creek
Open entire year, artificial flies and lures only, catch-and-release only.

Badger Creek Drainage near Heart Butte, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

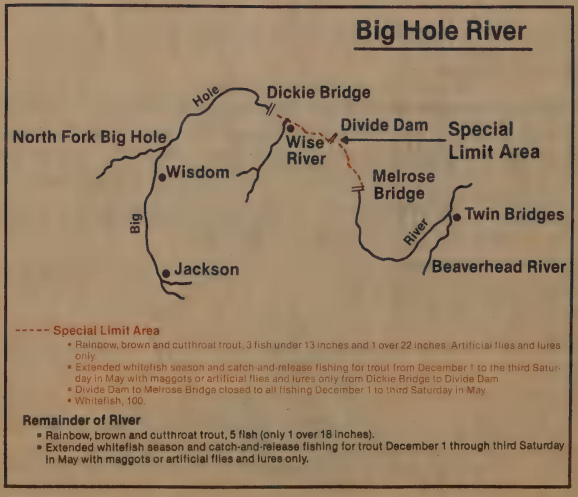
Bear Lake (South Fork Sun River drainage)
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Beaverhead River below Pipeorgan Bridge
Open entire year.

Bolt Creek below bridge at Riceville
Open entire year.

Big Hole River

- Entire river and all tributaries, catch-and-release only for grayling.
- Tributaries upstream of Divide Dam open entire year for brook trout.
- Brook trout limit, 10 pounds not to exceed 20 fish.
- Dickey Bridge (Highway 43 crossing west of Wise River in T1N, R12W, S11) to Melrose Bridge.
  Limit A: 3 trout per day under 13 inches and 1 trout over 22 inches, artificial lures only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only, except from Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge.

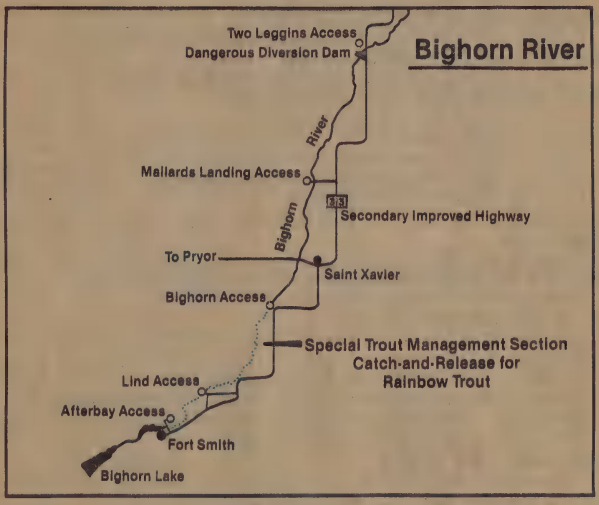

Big Hole River
Dickie Bridge
Hole
North Fork Big Hole
Wise River
Divide Dam
Special Limit Area
Wisdom
Melrose Bridge
Big
Twin Bridges
River
Jackson
Beaverhead River
----- Special Limit Area
• Rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, 3 fish under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches. Artificial flies and lures only.
• Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release fishing for trout from December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots or artificial flies and lures only from Dickie Bridge to Divide Dam
• Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge closed to all fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May
• Whitefish, 100.
Remainder of River
• Rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, 5 fish (only 1 over 18 inches).
• Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release fishing for trout December 1 through third Saturday in May with maggots or artificial flies and lures only.

Big Lake Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Big Spring Creek — Lewistown
Open entire year.

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
- Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait. Limit C: 10 walleye and sauger in any combination and 5 bass.
- Up to six (6) attended lines, with one (1) hook per line allowed through the ice only.

Bighorn River
- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area.
  Open entire year. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait. Limit A: 5 trout, only 1 of which may be over 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a rainbow trout.
- Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access Area
  Open entire year. Artificial lures only. Limit A: 5 trout only 1 of which may be over 18 inches. Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.



Black Sands Spring Creek (tributary to South Fork Madison River)
Open June 15 through November 30.

Bluewater Creek
Open entire year.

Boulder River near Big Timber
Open entire year.

Boulder River near Cardwell, mouth to bridge four airline miles upstream in T2N R3W S24
Open third Saturday in May through September 30.

Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
Closed entire year.

Bull Creek — Jackson (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Bynum Reservoir (Teton County)
Closed entire year.

Canyon Ferry Dam Structure
Closed as posted.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir
Setline fishing allowed through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.

Clark Canyon Reservoir
- Limit A: 5 trout.
- Springs entering reservoir at South end, near Red Rock River, closed as posted.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River
Open entire year.
- Below bridge at Bridger
  Setline fishing allowed entire year with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line. Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Cougar Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
Open June 15 through November 30.

Culver Pond (Widow's Pool) (Beaverhead County)
Open July 15 through September 30, artificial lures only. Limit B: 4 brook trout under 12 inches and 1 over 18 inches.

Cut Bank Creek downstream of Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary in T33N, R6W, S2
Open entire year.

Darlington Ditch (Darlington Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Three Forks)
Catch-and-release for trout and grayling. Artificial lures only.

Dearborn River downstream from Highway 434 bridge
Open entire year.

Deep Creek Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Deep Creek near Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Dickens Lake (Sun River Game Range)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Diversion Lake (Sun River drainage)
Limit A: 5 trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Duck Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
Open June 15 through November 30.

East Fork Hyalite Creek
Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

East Fork LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

East Gallatin River downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Open entire year.

Elk Creek Drainage near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Elk Lake (Beaverhead County)
Limit A: 5 trout.

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes
Open second Saturday in June through February. Open to setline fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines. Spearing or gigging northern pike and nongame fish open through the ice only through February.

Fairground Pond, Helena
Children's fishing water.

Falls Creek near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Ford Creek near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Gallatin River
Open entire year.
- Yellowstone Park to East Gallatin River
  Closed to fishing from boats.

Gibson Reservoir
Limit A: 5 trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Goose Lake — Madison County
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Limt A: 5 trout.

Governor Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Grayling Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
Open June 15 through November 30.

Harrison Reservoir
- Limit A: 3 trout
- Willow Creek arm, as posted, open third Saturday in May through February.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted.
Closed entire year.

Hauser Lake
Limits A and E combined: 10 pounds and one fish, not to exceed 10 trout and salmon in combination.
Limit C: 5 walleye and sauger, only one of which may exceed 20 inches.
- Setline fishing allowed through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Haypress Lakes (Madison County)
- Lower Lake — Limit A: 3 trout
- Middle Lake — Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.
- Upper Lake — Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Hebgen Reservoir
Limit A: 5 trout.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir
Open for salmon snagging September 1 through October 31 when the limit shall be 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession. Open to setline fishing through the ice only with up to three (3) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Hidden Lake, Madison County
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
  Limit A: 5 trout.

Hidden Lake (Teton County)
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Holter Reservoir
- Open entire year 5 a.m. to midnight. Setline fishing through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line, except prohibited 12 midnight to 5 a.m.
- Limits A and E combined: 10 pounds and one fish, not to exceed 10 trout and salmon in combination.
- Limit C: 5 walleye and sauger, only one of which may exceed 20 inches.

Howell Creek, Wisdom (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Hyalite Creek
See Middle Creek, East Fork Hyalite Creek, and West Fork Hyalite Creek.

Hyalite Reservoir
Limit A: 5 fish, only one of which may be a grayling.

Indian Creek, Sheridan from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.
Closed entire year.

Intake Reservoir, Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply
Closed entire year.

Jefferson River
Open entire year. Limit A: 5 brown trout with only 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.

Kiyo Lake (Pondera County)
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Lake Francis
- Around Conrad water supply outlet as posted
  Closed entire year.
- Except portion closed as posted
  Open entire year for setline fishing with up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line, except through the ice when up to six (6) lines with up to two (2) hooks per line may be used. Spearing or gigging northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish open through the ice only.

Lake Helena
Open to setline fishing through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Lake LaValle
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Lightning Creek (Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness)
Open August 1 through November 30.

Lyman Creek, Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
Closed entire year.

Madison River

- Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Lake
  Open June 15 through November 30.
- Earthquake Lake outlet to Varney Bridge
  Open entire year, artificial lures only, catch-and-release for trout.
- Earthquake Lake outlet to Lyon Bridge and Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake
  Closed to fishing from boats.
- Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake
  Open third Saturday in May through February. Sculpins not allowed for bait. Limit A: 5 trout per day, only 1 of which may exceed 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a rainbow trout.
- From Ennis Dam to the mouth
  Open entire year.

Madison River
Three Forks
Open to Fishing From Boats
Norris Bridge
Ennis Lake
Closed to Fishing From Boats
Ennis
Varney Bridge
McAllister Bridge
Open to Fishing From Boats
Lyon Bridge
Closed to Fishing From Boats
Hebgen Lake
West Fork
Quake Lake
Raynolds Pass Bridge
Yellowstone National Park Boundary
Seasons
Open entire year, Hebgen Dam to Varney Bridge, Ennis Dam to mouth of river.
Open third Saturday in May through February, Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake.
Open June 15 through November 30, Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Lake.
Special Limit Area
Trout, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches), only 1 of which may be a rainbow trout.
Whitefish, 100.
Use of sculpins not allowed
Special Limit Area
Artificial flies and lures only
Trout, catch-and-release fishing only
Whitefish, 100
Remainder of Madison River
Trout, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches)
Whitefish, 100.

Marias River
Open entire year including setline fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line. Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

McDonalds Pond (Beaverhead County)
Open July 15 through September 30, artificial lures only. Limit A: 1 rainbow trout over 20 inches in length.

Middle Creek (Hyalite Creek), Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
Closed entire year.

Midvale Creek from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to park boundary
Closed entire year.

Mill Creek near Sheridan
Open entire year.

Miner Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Missouri River

- Downstream from Three Forks
  Open entire year.
- Toston Dam structure as posted.
  Closed entire year.
- Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the dam
  Closed entire year.
- Just below Canyon Ferry Dam as posted
  Closed entire year.
- Between bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek
  Open to spear fishing for whitefish with rubber or spring propelled spears by person swimming or submerged. Limit F: 5 daily.
- Holter Dam to Black Eagle Dam
  Open entire year for commercial whitefish fishing.

Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn including all streams and drainage canals
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Musselshell River (downstream from confluence of North and South Forks)
Open entire year.
Nelson Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only, artificial lures only.

Newlan Creek Reservoir
Limit A: 5 trout.
North Fork Big Hole River
Open entire year for whitefish. Open entire year for brook trout.
North Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.
North Fork Dearborn Drainage near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.
North Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.
North Fork Teton River Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.
North Willow Creek, Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir
Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
Norwegian Creek
Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
O'Brien Creek above Neihart public water intake
Closed entire year.
Otter Lake, Madison County
Open third Saturday in June through November 30. Limit A: 5 trout.

Pattengail Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.
Pintler Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.
Pishkun Reservoir
- Open entire year for fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines or setlines with up to two (2) hooks per line.
- Salmon snagging September 1 through December where the limit shall be 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- Spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Plimpton Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.
Poindexter Slough
Open entire year. From December 1 to third Saturday in May, artificial flies and lures only, catch-and-release only.

Priest Butte Lake
Open June 15 through September 15 and December 1 through February.
Rattlesnake Creek, Dillon from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.
Closed entire year.
Red Canyon Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
Open June 15 through November 30.
Red Lodge Creek below Cooney Dam
Open entire year.
Renshaw Lake
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.
Rock Creek near Red Lodge
Open entire year.
Ruby River below Ruby Dam
Open entire year.

Shields River
Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only.
Silver Creek, Marysville
Catch-and-release fishing from Gold Sil Mine as posted to Green Meadow Drive.
Sixmile Creek and tributaries (tributary to Yellowstone River)
Catch-and-release only, artificial lures only.
Smith Creek Drainage near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.
Smith Lake (Madison County)
Limit A: 5 trout.

Smith River
- Below confluence of North and South Forks
  Open entire year.
- From confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge
  Artificial lures only. Limit A: 3 fish under 13 inches and 1 fish per day over 22 inches.
- Children under the age of 12 may fish with bait.

Sock Lake
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

South Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

South Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

South Fork Madison River (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
Open June 15 through November 30.

South Fork Teton River Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

South Fork Two Medicine River Drainage, within National Forest
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Sourdough Creek
See Bozeman Creek.

South Willow Creek, Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir
Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Split Rock Lake
Open entire year for setline fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line. Spearing or gigging for northern pike, and nongame fish through the ice only.

Spring Meadow Lake
- Closed to motor propelled water craft.
- Limit A: 5 trout.
- Limit C: 1 bass.

Squaw Creek (Big Hole River Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Stillwater River
Open entire year.

Sun River below Diversion Dam (T22N, R9W, S36)
Open entire year. Limit A: only 1 grayling may exceed 13 inches.

Sun River between Gibson Dam and Diversion Dam
Limit A: 5 trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Sun River Drainage above Diversion Dam (T22N, R9W, S36)
Forest limits apply — See Limit A.

Sunny Slope Canal downstream of Pishkun Reservoir
Limit A: 5 trout, only one grayling may exceed 13 inches in length.

Swamp Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.

Swazee Lake (Sun River Game Range)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Teton River downstream from Highway 89 bridge
Open entire year.

Toston Dam structure as posted
Closed entire year.

Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)
Children's fishing water

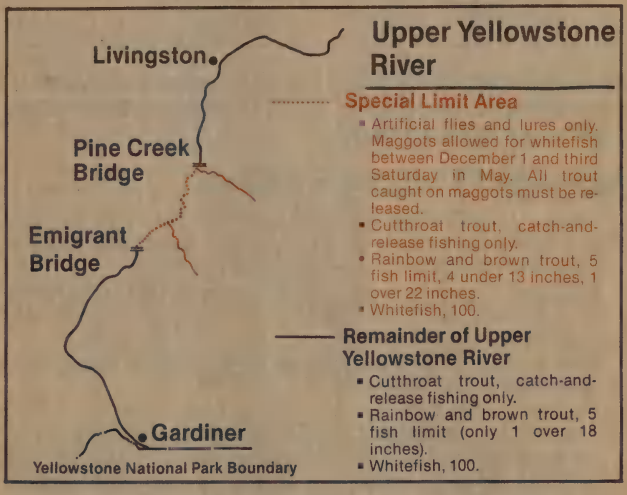
Wade Lake, Madison County
Open third Saturday in May through February. Limit A: 5 trout.

Warm Springs Creek, Lewistown
Open entire year. Limit A: 10 trout.

West Fork Hyalite Creek
Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

West Fork LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.
West Fork Rock Creek from Red Lodge water intake 1,000 feet upstream
Closed entire year.
Willow Creek and tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to source
Closed entire year.
Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.
Wood Lake (Sun River)
Limit A: 5 trout.
Wyman Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for brook trout.
Yellowstone River

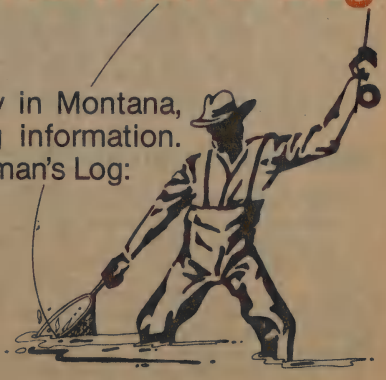
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for cutthroat trout.
- Yellowstone National Park Boundary to I-90 bridge at Billings
  Open entire year for commercial whitefish fishing.
- Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge
  Artificial lures only except that maggots may be used as bait for whitefish between December 1 and the third Saturday in May. Limit A: brown and rainbow trout, 4 fish under 13 inches and 1 fish over 22 inches.
- Below mouth of Clarks Fork
  Open entire year to setline fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.


Livingston
Pine Creek Bridge
Emigrant Bridge
Gardiner
Yellowstone National Park Boundary
Upper Yellowstone River
Special Limit Area
Artificial flies and lures only. Maggots allowed for whitefish between December 1 and third Saturday in May. All trout caught on maggots must be released.
Cutthroat trout, catch-and-release fishing only.
Rainbow and brown trout, 5 fish limit, 4 under 13 inches, 1 over 22 inches.
Whitefish, 100.
Remainder of Upper Yellowstone River
Cutthroat trout, catch-and-release fishing only.
Rainbow and brown trout, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches).
Whitefish, 100.

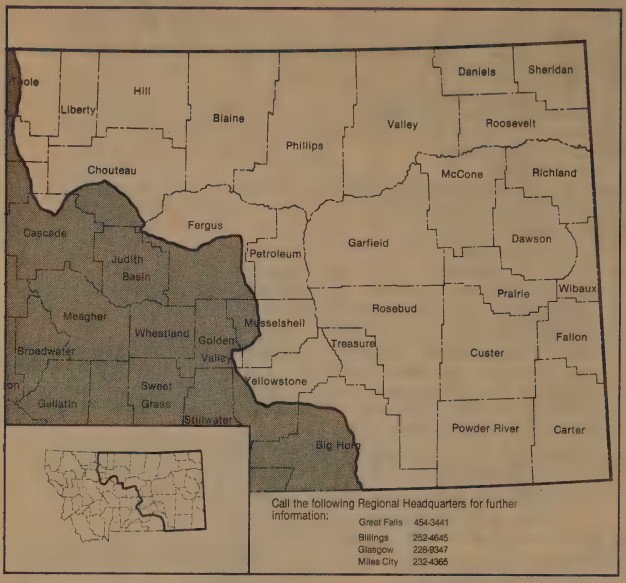
Fisherman's Log

If you fish regularly in Montana, help gather fishing information. Write for the Fisherman's Log:

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1400 South 19th
Bozeman, MT 59715



EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT



Eastern Fishing District Includes All Waters Lying East Of The Central Fishing District. For The Boundary Description, See Central Fishing District.

Standard Fishing Seasons

All waters open entire year. All waters open to fishing are open to bow and arrow hunting, and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish (except portion of Yellowstone River).

Spearing — Nongame fish and burbot may be taken with rubber or spring propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged in all waters open to fishing.

Spears or gigs may be used through the ice only for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot and nongame fish.

Setlines — All lakes open to fishing open to setline fishing through the ice only, except as specified under exceptions.

All streams in Yellowstone Drainage open entire year to setlines.

Anglers may use up to 6 attended or unattended lines or setlines with up to 6 hooks per line in those waters open to setline fishing except as specified under exceptions.

Unattended setlines must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.

Bait — Streams and rivers open to use of live fish for bait (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) except:

- Milk River and its tributaries above Fresno Dam.
- Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.
- Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in Bearpaw Mountains.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits unless listed under exceptions. However, a person may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which he is fishing.

LIMIT:

A **Species:** Salmon, Grayling, and All trout except Lake trout
Daily Bag Limit: 10 in any combination
Possession Limit: 10
An angler must release or kill immediately any fish of the species covered by Limit A. It is unlawful to possess a live fish of any species in Limit A.

B
Species: Lake trout
Daily Bag Limit: 5
Possession Limit: 5

C
Species: Walleye and Sauger
Daily Bag Limit: 10 in any combination
Possession Limit: 10 in any combination

D
Species: Northern Pike and Tiger Muskellunge
Daily Bag Limit: 5
Possession Limit: 5

E
Species: Bass (largemouth and smallmouth)
Daily Bag Limit: 10
Possession Limit: 10

F
Species: Paddlefish
Daily Bag Limit: 1
Possession Limit: 2

There is no number limit on catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish (except portion of Marias River). The maximum weight sturgeon (Genus: **Scaphirhynchus**) which may be taken is 16 pounds.

Nets (Use Of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

Hoop Nets — Hoop Nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish, catfish, burbot (ling), and sturgeon in Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Bighorn River, Milk River downstream from Highway 2 Bridge below Dodson Dam and Missouri River downstream from mouth of Milk River, except: Closed March 1 through May 15; and for two hundred (200) yards below all irrigation diversion dams. Each net must be clearly marked with owner's complete name and address.

Minnow seines and Traps — In all waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:

- With seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
- With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

Commercial Bait Fish Seining

Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206 from the following waters. Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license.

All streams and reservoirs listed as open to the use of all nongame fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) are open to commercial bait fishing seining **except:**

- Big Dry and Little Dry Creek north of Highway 200 in Garfield County.
- Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River.
- Otter Creek downstream from U.S. Highway 212 to its confluence with the Tongue River.
- Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek, tributaries to the Yellowstone River in Richland County.
- Petrolia Reservoir.

Certain other waters may be opened upon request. Apply to regional Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.

Not valid on Indian Reservation water; for information contact local tribal officials.

Exceptions to: Eastern Fishing District

Bainville Railroad Ponds (Roosevelt County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Baker Lake (Fallon County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Bear Paw Lake (Hill County)
Limit A: 5 trout, only one line may be used year around.

Beaver Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Beaver Creek in Valley and Phillips County
Open entire year to setlines.

Big Muddy Creek
Open entire year to setlines.

Big Sandy Creek
South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains). Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Box Elder Reservoir (Sheridan County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Buxbaum West Reservoir (Richland County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Castle Rock Lake (Rosebud County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Clear Creek
South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains). Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Cole Ponds (Phillips County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Cow Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Dredge Cut Trout Pond
- Open April 1 through November 30 for up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with no more than two (2) hooks per line: lines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Open December 1 through March 31 to setlines.
- Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Eagle Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Engstrom Reservoir (Sheridan County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Ester Reservoir (Phillips County)
Open entire year to setlines. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Faber Reservoir (Blaine County)
Limit A: 5 trout.

Flat Lake (McCone County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Fort Peck Dredge Cut Pond
See Missouri River.

1911 Fish are planted directly from railroad cars.
See Centennial History on page 17.

Fort Peck Reservoir

- Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring propelled spears.
- Downstream from a line between Haxby Point and Number 6 navigation sign at South Fork Duck Creek including Big Dry Arm

  Open April 1 through November 30 for up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with no more than two (2) hooks per line; lines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Open December 1 through March 31 to setlines. Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait. Limit C: 5 walleye and sauger daily and in possession in any combination.
- Upstream from a line between Haxby Point and Number 6 navigation sign at South Fork Duck Creek excluding Big Dry Arm

  Open entire year to setline fishing. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Frenchman Creek (excluding Frenchman Reservoir)

Open entire year to setlines.

Frenchman Reservoir (Phillips County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Fresno Reservoir (Hill County)

- Open April 1 through November 30 for up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with no more than two (2) hooks per line.
- Lines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs.
- Open December 1 through March 31 for setlines.
- Limit C: 5 walleye and sauger daily and in possession in any combination.
- Limit D: No number limit on northern pike.

Giant Springs (Great Falls) that portion enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work.

Closed entire year.

Hollecker Pond (near Glendive)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt allowed for bait.

Killenbeck Reservoir (Daniels County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Kuester Reservoir (Richland County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Lake Elwell

See Tiber Reservoir.

Lame Steer Reservoir (Wibaux County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Lee (Sam) Reservoir (Dawson County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Lindsay Reservoir (Dawson County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Little Box Elder Creek

- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)

  Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Little Warm Reservoir (Phillips County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Lone Tree Creek (Valley County)

Open entire year to setlines.

Lone Tree Creek impoundments (Valley County)

Open entire year to setlines. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Marias River

Open entire year to setlines from I-15 bridge to Tiber Reservoir and from Circle Bridge (Meisner's) to confluence with Missouri River.

- From Tiber Dam to its confluence with the Missouri River Shovelnose sturgeon limit shall be 5 fish.
- Limit A: 5 trout, of which only one may exceed 18 inches.
- Whitefish: limit 35 fish.

McChesney Reservoir (Phillips County)

Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Sheridan County)
All lakes open to setlines. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
- Medicine Lake
  Open November 15 through September 15.
- Gaffney Lake and Lake 10.
  Open August 15 through March 31.
- Lake 12
  Open November 15 through March 31.

Milk River
- And its tributaries above Fresno Dam.
  Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.
- Upstream from Fresno Reservoir
  Open entire year to setlines.
- And its impoundments downstream from Fresno Dam.
  Open entire year to setlines. Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
- Downstream from Highway 2 bridge below Dodson Dam
  Open May 16 through February of following year to use of hoop nets without wings or leads for nongame fish, catfish, burbot and sturgeon except 200 yards below all irrigation diversion dams; each net must be marked with owner's name and address; sturgeon must be under 16 pounds.

Missouri River
- Upstream from Morony Dam
  Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.
- Immediately downstream from Morony Dam as posted
  Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Morony Dam (excluding river and dredge cuts between Fort Peck Dam and mouth of Milk River)
  Open entire year to setlines.
- From Fort Peck Dam to mouth of Milk River (including Dredge Cut Ponds)
  Open April 1 through November 30 for up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with no more than two (2) hooks per line; lines may not be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Open December 1 through March 31 to setlines. Limit A: Not to include more than 2 rainbow trout.
- Downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted
  Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island as posted
  Closed March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading.
- Downstream from mouth of Milk River
  Open May 16 through February of the following year to use of hoop nets without wings or leads for nongame fish, catfish, burbot and sturgeon, except 200 yards below all irrigation diversion dams; each net must be marked with owner's name and address; sturgeon must be under 16 pounds.

Musselshell River
Open entire year to setlines.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County)
- Open April 1 through November 30 for up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with no more than two (2) hooks per line; lines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs.
- Open December 1 through March 31 to setlines.
- Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
- Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring propelled spears.
- Limit C: 5 walleye and sauger daily and in possession in any combination.
- Limit D: No number limit on northern pike.

Peoples Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Petrolia Reservoir
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Poplar River
Open entire year to setlines.

Powder River and tributaries
Open entire year to bow and arrow hunting for catfish.

Raymond Reservoir (Sheridan County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

Redwater River
Open entire year to setlines.
Reser Reservoir (Blaine County)
Limit E: 2 bass.
Rolph Dam (Carter County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Ross Reservoir (Blaine County)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Limit A: 5 trout.
Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)
Open February 1 through October 31.
Schlesinger Perch Pond (Rosebud County)
Live bait (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Silvertip Reservoir (Prairie County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Snake Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.
South Fork Reservoir (Prairie County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
South Sandstone Reservoir (Fallon County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Spotted Eagle Pond (Custer County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Sucker Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.
Talcott Pike Pond (near Hammond)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Teton River
Open entire year to setlines.
Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)
- Open April 1 through November 30 for up to two (2) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.
- Open December 1 through March 31 for up to six (6) lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.
- Live fish (except for carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
- Limit D: 10 northern pike daily and in possession.

Tongue River Reservoir
Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerge using rubber or spring propelled spears. Live fish (except carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Whiteside Reservoir (Garfield County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Whitetail Reservoir (Daniels County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.
Wind Creek (Blaine County) from Clear Creek road crossing to its source, excluding Ross Reservoir
Closed entire year.
Witkowski Reservoir (Wibaux County)
Live fish (except carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait.

The Future—A continuing commitment to qualify and diverse sport fishing opportunities through habitat protection, resource conservation and public participation in developing resource management programs. See Centennial History on page 17.

Yellowstone River

- Downstream from mouth of Bighorn River
  Open May 16 through February of following year to use of hoop nets without wings or leads for nongame fish, catfish, burbot and sturgeon except 200 yards below all irrigation diversion dams; each net must be marked with owner's complete name and address. No limits, except sturgeon must be under 16 pounds.
- Downstream from mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream of Intake Diversion Dam)
  Open May 1 through July 10 to snagging of paddlefish. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited. Limit F: Season and daily limit 2 paddlefish.
- From mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream of Intake Diversion Dam)
  Open May 15 through July 10 to snagging of paddlefish. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited. Limit F: Season and daily limit 2 paddlefish.
- From Intake Diversion to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted
  Closed May 15 through July 10 to fishing or snagging from boats.

Paddlefish Regulations

- All paddlefish anglers must purchase and have in their possession paddlefish tags in addition to other licenses that may be required.
- Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own fish. It is unlawful to cast for and/or hook a paddlefish for another person.
- Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment to a fish shall be void.
- Any tag which has been altered or modified shall be void.
- Each paddlefish must be tagged immediately when brought under control and must be tagged with one's own tag. It is unlawful to take and release a paddlefish.
- It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish taken from the Yellowstone River, or parts thereof, within one mile of the Yellowstone River.
- If a fish is cut up, the angler must keep that portion of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) necessary to maintain the tag sealed to the fish.

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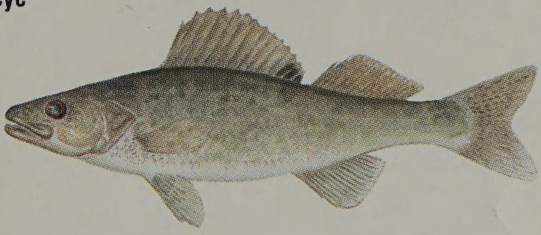
Fish Identification

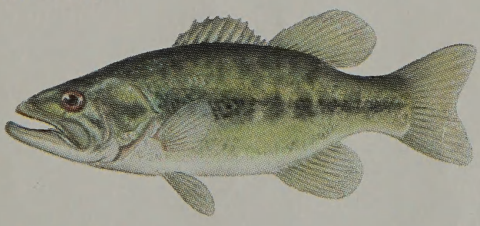
Northern Pike

Walleye

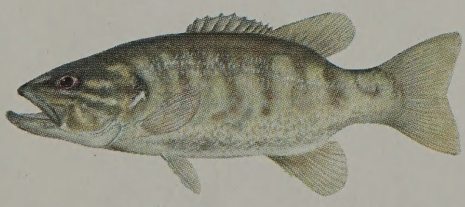


Yellow Perch

Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



These illustrations were painted by Glenn West for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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